

"The Lord's Encouragement to ALL Believers"

Part 6

1 Peter 1:1-2:10

Introduction: Last week in our study of 1 Peter we looked at the greatness of our salvation as described by Peter to his readers.

Notice 1 Peter 1:10-12

As we move on in this chapter the Holy Spirit will presuppose that we have understood just how blessed we are to be children of God and He will now call us to a higher level of living.

➤ **Living a Life of Holiness**

Notice 1 Peter 1:13

The first word in this verse looks back to all that Peter has told his readers. But what did he tell them?

1. They were the elect.
2. They were sanctified by the Spirit.
3. They were washed in the blood.
4. They had a living hope in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
5. They had an inheritance that was guarded by God.
6. They were secure in their salvation because they were kept by the power of God.
7. The heaviness they were under was only for a season.
8. They had joy unspeakable.
9. They had a salvation which the prophets longed to understand, and the angels desired to understand.

All of these apply to us so, we need to just pause here and be reminded that we have wealth untold as believers. We have what money can never buy. We have assurance, peace, comfort, joy, security, the promises of God, and the list continues to go on. We are rich in Jesus Christ and nothing can change this. Now let us get back to our verse again.

Notice 1 Peter 1:13-16

In these verses Peter is going to give five exhortations based upon our great salvation.

1. Gird up the loins of your mind.

This exhortation is based upon a military term. A Roman soldier would pull his tunic through his belt so his garment would not be in his way when he was in battle. Girding the loins was a mark of preparedness, and the soldier who was serious about fighting was sure

to secure his tunic with his belt. Peter is telling us that we must be prepared and committed for spiritual battle.

Considering the context of who Peter is writing to we can better understand what Peter is saying. These believers were facing great persecution and suffering for their faith in Jesus Christ. There would be the tendency to focus only upon the trial before them. But Peter calls them to stay focused upon who they are as children of God and the blessings which they have. I am reminded of what Paul wrote in Philippians.

Phil 4:8-9

⁸ Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

⁹ Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

Application:

As humans we can easily become focused upon the problems that surround us and be completely engulfed in negative thinking. The tests and the trials begin to control our thoughts. Peter is calling on us to take control of our thoughts.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5

⁴ (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

⁵ Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

If we neglect to bring our thoughts into obedience the problems of life will completely overwhelm us. We have to make a decision to control our thoughts and be prepared for serving the Lord in the battle.

Illustration:

A sad example of not controlling the thoughts is what we see happening today. The Covid scare has paralyzed many people. Instead of getting their thoughts under control they let them fly in the breeze of worldly influence. This has caused many people to stop attending church and it has caused many to live in isolation. They are under a blanket of fear and

refuse to come out. This is a choice. It is about allowing my mind to be filled with negative reports or taking control of my thoughts and getting focused upon who I am in Christ and trusting God.

This is what Peter is saying to his readers. They can be paralyzed with fear or they can gird up loins of their mind and face what is before them walking in faith. The believer is to grab hold of his mind and take charge of his thought life. Is my mind an open manhole into which anything can fall? Is it a drain that indiscriminately takes in everything? An "open mind" can be good, but a mind open to whatever a corrupt world has to dump into it is not good.

2. Be sober

This has nothing to do with drinking alcoholic beverages. But there is a parallel between drunkenness and what is being said here. When a person is intoxicated their judgment and reaction are greatly impaired. They cannot make wise decisions because their minds are under the influence of the alcohol that has been taken into their blood stream.

Let us notice what someone has said about what Peter has recorded;

"The idea is to "make sure you keep all your faculties fully operational". This trait describes one who is free from every form of mental and spiritual 'drunkenness', from excess, passion, rashness, confusion, etc. be well-balanced, self-controlled. Peter gives us an injunction to sane appraisal of the facts, without undue emotion and panic.

Peter says that we are to continually (present tense) make the choice of our will to be watchful, calm and collected in spirit, temperate, dispassionate and circumspect in this present evil age. It's the image of not being drunk when it comes to spiritual things and implies alertness and evaluating things correctly, because you see clearly, and your mind isn't numb with intoxicating influences. Such a person is able to see things without the distortion caused by worry, fear, and their related attitudes. He or she is well balanced and does not "get drunk" on the intoxicating "liquor" that the world so tantalizingly offers to the senses of our old flesh nature. Now with all that said, how is this possible? Is this an attitude we can conger up in our own strength, relying on our natural ability? I think not, so once again we see that to stay sober in this seductive world, we need to be not drunk with the world's wine, but "drunk with," filled with, controlled by the indwelling Spirit of God!"

Ephesians 5:18

¹⁸ *And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;*

It is possible for a believer to drink in the opinions of the world to the point that they are not able to any longer think clearly and make rational choices. I can assure you this has happened to many under the Covid scare. These people therefore are not spiritually alert and are not any where close to being prepared for battle. They are not focused upon the Word of God but are far too intoxicated with the liquor of the world. I need to also add that this not happens under the present circumstances of our world, but it happens in times of sickness and death within a family.

David offers a clear precise picture of what it is to be spiritually sober.

2 Samuel 12:15-23

15 And Nathan departed unto his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very sick.

16 David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth.

17 And the elders of his house arose, and went to him, to raise him up from the earth: but he would not, neither did he eat bread with them.

18 And it came to pass on the seventh day, that the child died. And the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead: for they said, Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spake unto him, and he would not hearken unto our voice: how will he then vex himself, if we tell him that the child is dead?

19 But when David saw that his servants whispered, David perceived that the child was dead: therefore David said unto his servants, Is the child dead? And they said, He is dead.

20 Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his apparel, and came into the house of the LORD, and worshipped: then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he did eat.

21 Then said his servants unto him, What thing is this that thou hast done? thou didst fast and weep for the child, while it was alive; but when the child was dead, thou didst rise and eat bread.

22 And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell whether GOD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?

23 But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.

To be sober in this text means to NOT be controlled by outside circumstances.

3. Fix your HOPE on the grace to come.

Notice 1 Peter 1:13 again.

The idea here is that our hope is to be set on the end result of our salvation which will take place when Jesus returns.

1 Corinthians 15:51-54

⁵¹ Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

⁵² In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

⁵⁴ So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

Peter is calling on his readers to not set their hope in the things of this life but to set their hope in their completed salvation.

1 John 3:1-3

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

² *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

³ *And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*

Notice the words of Richards;

"Too often we "set our hope" on some near, immediate "grace". "Lord, I'd like a new job." "Lord, heal my illness." "Lord, if only You'll let us get this home of our own." "Father, I know this marriage is just what I need to make me happy!" We may indeed get what we ask and hope for in this life. But any earthly prospect can disappoint, and every earthly possession

be torn from our grasp. Only when we set our hope "fully" on the grace that will be ours when Jesus comes will we be immune to life's losses."

This is so important for us to understand. When we set our hope on what is here in this life we can be disappointed because everything here changes. But when our hope is set on eternal matters it is secure. Let us remember what Peter wrote earlier.

1 Peter 1:5

⁵ *Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

Notice the words from the Pulpit Commentary:

"Hope is beyond faith. Faith reveals somewhat, then hope anticipates it. Hope expects, ponders, yearns for. "Perfectly;" equivalent to "without any admixture of doubt." To make the blessings promised in Christ a subject of hope would make them grow before our vision, and intensify the consciousness that they are ours. It does not impress us to know that a vast multitude of stars fill the sky, but to go into the observatory and single out one star for observation, and fix our mind on that, ensures one new beauty after another gleaming out of the darkness, and where we thought was but a star, a galaxy is discerned."

These first three commands require strenuous mental preparation but they are needed for us to live above the circumstances of life.

4. Do NOT be conformed to sinful desires.

Notice 1 Peter 1:14

When we were saved, we were saved FROM our sins.

1 John 3:4-6

⁴ *Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.*

⁵ *And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.*

⁶ *Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.*

When we were saved, we were transformed.

2 Corinthians 5:17

17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Notice the words of the Pulpit Commentary on what Peter is saying to his readers:

"There was a time when self-will shaped their lives. They molded themselves according to their own desires, but all that must be at an end now. A new pattern is set before them. They are now to fashion themselves, not after the ideal framed by their own tastes or inclinations, but, as we might read the words, "according to the Holy One who hath called you."

Notice 1 Peter 1:14 again:

There was a time when we gave into our lusts when we were ignorant. But now we know better. We have the Holy Spirit living within us and He guides us into all Truth.

Conclusion:

Next week we will continue these thoughts but for tonight let me just say that when we practice the first three mental preparations, which are;

1. **Gird up the loins of the mind.**
2. **Be sober.**
3. **Fix your HOPE on the grace to come.**

When these are practiced then abstaining from the former lusts will come naturally.